

# ABENG

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## SIGNPOST

### EDUCATION MINISTRY PLANS TO BAN ABENG

Abeng understands that a circular has gone around to the schools from the Ministry of Education asking headmasters to keep watch on Black Power and discourage the sale of Abeng in schools. Already in certain schools in the Corporate Area those persons who distribute the paper have been coming under harassment.

This victimisation of the Black Man's paper in our schools is not surprising because historically schools have been among the institutions most successful in perpetuating the white power structure. They have mistreated the hundreds of white-hearted black men over the years, who have striven to become 'educated' in the oppressors' culture only to serve as highly-paid slaves. Today as students of all colours and grades begin to understand the need to link themselves to the Abeng and to serve Black Emancipation, the school establishments must get worried. But if they try to ban Abeng in the schools then: (1) students will get a concrete lesson in the meaning of freedom of expression—namely only the 'freedom' to read the papers approved by the power structure but not those dedicated to the cause of the Black Man; (2) the Ministry can expect that students will resist this invasion of their rights by disrupting the institutions of miseducation if necessary.

### MORE VIOLENCE BY THE STATE!

An ABENG vendor was boxed and intimidated with sub-machine guns by a group of policemen and soldiers on Saturday morning last on Water Lane in Kingston.

It was reported to Abeng that at about 10:30 a.m. on Saturday morning last, about 30 persons were at the premises of 8 Water Lane. This building is a shop and is used as a recreation centre by youths. A jeep with soldiers and policemen stopped at the shop. The men alighted from the jeep and began searching the people in the shop. Many persons became frightened and ran away. Among them were pregnant women.

The ABENG vendor and three others stood their ground. He was boxed and searched.

On Monday evening this same youth had a gun drawn on him by the police. He had to run into hiding.

## BUDGET EXPOSES WICKEDNESS OF GOVT. SOME HIGHLIGHTS

**Public debt charges** — The money paid to Jamaican and foreign capitalists for the Government's debt to them — is the biggest single increase and the biggest single item of recurrent expenditure. It totals £11 million! This is more than the Government spends on educating Jamaican children.

**Police-spending** is up 21% to £4.6 million. Spending on the Army amounts to £2.1 million.

Spending on police and the army therefore amounts to £6.7 million which is almost 5 times recurrent spending on housing the people!

The recurrent expenses of the Prime Minister's residence has fallen from last year. Last year upkeep of Jamaica House cost £12,500, this year it is expected to cost only £9,898!

The recurrent money given to Lightbourne's Ministry of Trade and Industry has been cut by £300,000! And the money for McLaren's Ministry of Rural Land Development has been increased by £800,000!

In order to show how important it is to make sacrifices, politicians are to get the same money as last year. The Prime Minister will still

get only £10,000 a year, Finance Minister only £4,400, 12 other Ministers only £4,200 each, Leader of Her Majesty's Opposition will get only £3,300, 2 Ministers of State £3,100 each, 1 Minister without Portfolio £2,500, 8 Parliamentary Secretaries only £3,500 each, The Speaker of the House gets only £3,500, Deputy Speaker £2,800 and the remaining ordinary MHR's only £2,100 each! Rental of houses for Ministers will cost only £10,340 and politicians' travelling and subsistence a measly £128,100!



## THE THRONE SPEAKS:

### Black Power

"Once more as Her Majesty's Representative and your Governor-General I welcome you. . . ."

"... It is planned to start a detailed study on folk groups commencing with the Maroons and to establish folk museums for exhibitions of the rich ethnic art of Jamaica, commencing with Afro-Jamaican art."

### Crime and Violence

"The Government is satisfied that the root cause is an organised plan to use a small group of dissident persons and subversives aimed at creating panic. . . . The Government will further strengthen the forces of law and order to detect subversion and effectively curtail this growing menace. . . ."

### Unemployment

"... The Government will continue to pursue policies for the uninterrupted growth of the Jamaican economy and will maintain the environment and the incentive for the energetic participation of the private sector. . . ."

"... The programme for constructing specially selected roads with a high labour content will be intensified. . . ."

### Youth

"... The establishment of Beach Camps for training and recreation; development of summer work camps; the accelerated promotion of voluntary work among young people. Vocational training aspects of Youth Camps, Approved Schools and Child Care Institutions will be reviewed and expanded. Planning will be done for the establishment of a new complex of Approved Schools at Tredegar Park for Boys. . . ."

### Small Farmers

"A new loan programme for the development of small farms with a full range of facilities and other requirements. . . . in order to lift small farming to a level of proper establishment, will be implemented. . . ."

## PERU ASKS LATIN AMERICAN SUPPORT IN DISPUTE WITH U.S.

LIMA, Peru, April 14 (Reuters) — President Juan Valasco Alvarado of Peru today demanded Latin-American solidarity with Peru, which is engaged in a dispute with the United States over the expropriation of the International Petroleum Company.

General Valasco was addressing 300 delegates from 46 countries attending the 13th meeting of the United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America, which opened here today.

In a 25-minute speech General Velasco said:

"Peru today is the Latin American country that has decided to reconstruct her destiny and at last to exercise her sovereignty.

"Peru expects and demands the solidarity of brother Latin-American countries. If Peru falls today, no national future will be secure in this part of the world."

This was taken by observers as a reference to threatened economic sanctions by the United States if Peru did not compensate International Petroleum, a subsidiary of the Standard Oil Company (New Jersey) for the expropriation of its oil fields and refineries in northern Peru.

General Velasco said that the present meeting was "where the responsibility of the Latin-American continent toward a brother country in the bitter battle for economic emancipation.

The president was referring to the goals of the Economic Commission for Latin America. He called on delegates to reflect on Latin America's efforts to develop the area.

"You must analyze the points where we have succeeded and those where we have failed in recent years, and if necessary, change our course to guarantee our countries the conditions of sovereign nations," he said.

### PROBLEMS ON AGENDA

"There is no development without transformation, without an authentic revolutionary process," said General Velasco, who seized power in a military coup last October.

"The battle for development can only be waged victoriously when there is clear consciousness of the dangers and political implications on the internal front and on the international field," he continued.

"Our condition as dependent societies is part of the global picture that it is imperative to transform."



# DETENTION CAMP OCTOBER, 1966



Illustration by Author.

(Abeng is privileged to bring to its readers this first-hand report on "Detention Camp 1966". The author was himself imprisoned in the camp. It will serve to awaken everyone to what this Government is now preparing for our people. The talk about State of Emergency and greater measures to combat crime is not to be taken lightly. They mean to lock up this whole country rather than submit to freedom and justice for all — EDITORS).

On Thursday 5th October, 1966, the people of Trench Town and Ghost Town had the amazement of waking up to find they were completely surrounded by strong Military and Police detachments.

It was an offensive launched by the Government, under the pretext of Martial Law, it was a "State of Emergency".

A few times it was published that raids were made on "Constituency Offices". Various weaponry were discovered, a few arrests made. Totally irrelevant, if solving of these crimes was really the intentions of our well equipped, and organized Police department.

The Government shamefacedly instituted a "State of Emergency", certain slum areas were cordoned and thoroughly searched, house to house, this yielded a few articles mainly stolen property, a few guns, machetes, ammunition and other weaponry, but all in all this campaign was adversely effective, in so far as the poor and underprivileged were concerned. The Government knew who the offenders were, they also knew the sources that fed, and upheld these elements, yet in keeping with true "Imperialist" hypocrisy they persistently and viciously oppressed the poor. Some were taken out of bed, from their women and children, dragged off to jails, beaten most cruelly by gangs of power-crazed policemen. The majority of these prisoners or "detainees" as they were called, were taken to Denham Town's park where they had set up a "Detention Camp". This camp had more than two hundred prisoners as a result of an overflow at all police lock-ups in the corporate area.

It has never been published, that any of these persons were convicted on any charge, that arose out of any incidents, in connection with any of the stipulated factors. Yet for more than three weeks honest, decent poor people suffered unjustly at the hands of the Government,

under the guise of so-called "security measures" when indeed and in fact, the roots of the problems created, was in Parliament, among parliamentarians.

The administration meted the people was most brutal, individually they were subjected to the most intimidating of interrogations, forced to live day after day under most inhuman conditions.

The entire camp was encircled with Military-type barb-wiring apart from the fencing it already had. There were three tents of about 8x9 ft., two smaller ones that contained two female "detainees" in one, cycles and other possessions of the other "detainees" in the other. Each tent apart from the one used by the Military and Police were also encircled with barb-wiring, leaving just enough space for two people to get in or out at a time. There were no beds, just one piece of board that covered the surface of the tents. There were no proper conveniences, no bathrooms, just one lavatory that was never clean, and a stand pipe immediately behind this building, if one requested the use of these menial conveniences, you were marched off at bayonet points through this maze of barb wires. Whatever had to be done, was also done under the watchful eyes of the J.D.F.

Photographs of each person were taken in various positions, fingerprints and other "routine" data were also taken. Of the many questions asked by the heads of the CID, the importance was placed on the political affiliations of the individuals. It seemed that the primary purpose of the entire operation was mainly to find out who was JLP from who was PNP, what "Group" or what "Branch" you belong to, how well you knew Zackie or so and so, all former political gunmen who had died in the period before.

The food was always brought in

containers, similar to those used as dust-bins by middle-class families, it was never palatable, or looked like food prepared under hygienic conditions, yet people were forced to eat gratefully, it was prohibited for relatives or friends to bring food, money, clothing, toothbrushes, soap, combs, or whatever other things a prisoner could have found a necessity. Occasionally a sympathetic soldier may violate authority by allowing a pack of cigarettes, or a dish of food to get to a prisoner.

Most youths tried hard to refrain from eating the food sent by the authorities, it was commonly thought that it was most times drugged.

One Sunday cornbread and butter along with chocolate tea, was served for breakfast. One youth refused to eat the butter and laid it out in the sanitary plate, in the sun; at 5 p.m. the butter had not melted, nor was the plate even damp from absorbing moisture. The youths became more suspicious and less people ate food thereafter, there were murmurings everywhere, everyone was frustrated and hostile, became thin and stank.

Another youth, a few days after, became highly frustrated, began crying, and ventured beyond the wires. Two soldiers were on duty, an argument developed, and the soldiers began hitting him with the butts of their rifles, the other men began protesting this brutal attack, and some came from behind the wires. At this point the attack was then concentrated on the other people, more men came from behind the wires, the soldiers backing off began to crank their weapons in a manner that suggested that they meant to open fire. By this time other soldiers and policemen had joined the fracas. The Military and Police headquarters were notified and in a few minutes several jeeps and lorries loaded with police converged on us. By this time the other soldiers had cleared the compound entirely, and with the reinforcements were lined up right

around the place; all guns, including Brens and Stens, and other machine guns, were trained at us, the men now roamed the entire compound, boisterously voicing their opinions, and grouses; shortly after the Chief of the Army and other officials, under heavy escort, entered. They proceeded to inspect the camp. Afterwards he began to intimidate the men, by saying they could not expect to be released if they rebelled and that they were destroying Government's properties, and that the Government would not tolerate such a demonstration. He tasted the food which he afterward spat out, and tried to assure us that it was tasty and what not, he left.

We tore down the lavatory pipe

the same day and most of us had baths, none of us ate a bit of food, we placed them all on three tables, formerly used by the authorities, and batches of us danced around them, in the small space we had in one corner of the camp. True to the Chief's word, a very strong detachment of policemen converged on us the following night at about 11 p.m. men were dragged out of the tents beaten savagely, lined up under flood lights, searched, suffled about.

We lived with a little freedom within our enslavement, for a few more days, till one by one, and sometimes in batches of threes or fours, they began to release us. This operation took another two weeks.

## PLAIN TALK.

### CONVERSATION WITH A JAMAICA

#### WHITE MAN

BY ROGER BROWN  
MANDEVILLE

**Black:** The Government has passed a law giving them the right to deport anyone without trial or a court order.

**White:** You see there are many foreigners who come in and create discontent among the illiterate blacks leading them on to violence.

**Black:** So this is your line of argument, which is also the propaganda of the mass media. In actual fact what has happened is this: an American, Canadian, Frenchman, German or Israelite can come and do as they please. They get the best jobs and treatment. However the slightest thing a Black person does, especially when they criticise the Government, they are ready to deport them. And in many cases White foreigners are given preference over Black foreigners although they both have the same qualification for a particular job.

**White:** The White people are more industrious and brainier than the Blacks. The Black people have not built or invented anything. Neither do Black foreigners contribute anything.

**Black:** How do you account for the number of African doctors and specialists working at U.C. Hospital and the Children's Hospital. And the many teachers who are contributing to the education of Jamaica's children.

**White:** I am sure that if you were ill you would feel better and healed quicker when attended to by the European specialist than an African or Jamaican specialist. You see the European has got a long line of experience. When the Europeans were building boats and navigating the seas, the Africans were still uncivilized. The Black people have no brains, only one in ten thousand have any ambition.

**Black:** This is utter rubbish. Black men are as good and as brainy as any White man. There are many Black people who have invented many things. In fact it was the Ethiopians who were the first people to navigate by the stars. Before the Europeans raped Africa for slaves, there was a University of Timbuctu; and, the Ashantis of the Gold Coast and the Yoruba of Nigeria possessed a highly organized and complex civilization. Even in modern times there have been Black men like Booker T. Washington, George Washington Carver (the Black scientist who extracted 128 different uses from the peanut) and many others too numerous to mention.

**White:** I have never heard of this before. This sounds like Black Power. I believe in Black Power, but not this type, that will make people become violent and shoot up rich people.

**Black:** The reason why you have never even heard of men like Carver is: the European twisted history to suit themselves and hid all the good things that Black people contributed to the civilization of man.

**White:** That kind of talk is not good for Black people in Jamaica, because I know from experience that Jamaicans only want to sit in the shade drinking and sleeping. They have no brains—look how the Chinese and Syrians have made it rich. You see the Black man does not have any real claim to Jamaica because they have been here for just over 100 years.

**Black:** One thing is certain you do not know anything about Jamaican history because the Black man was first brought here by the Spaniards a few years after they came to Jamaica, in fact, Black slaves were brought here in 1509, and also by the British in 1655. From the day the European enslaved the Black man he began a systematic destruction of his religion, language and his personality. He brought the Black man down to the level of an animal. The Chinese, the Syrians and the Jews were given every opportunity to uplift themselves at the expense of the Black people, because the law that existed then prevented the Black man from owning a goat or a sheep.

**White:** You have a Black man's mentality. I could never talk to you again.



# ABENG

Vol. 1 No. 14 May 3, 1969

## EDITORIAL COMMITTEE

george buckford  
robert hill  
trevor munroe  
rupert lewis

## VIOLENT PRICES

If the utter bankruptcy of the men who control and manipulate the economic and social order is manifested anywhere, it is in this sheer incapacity to provide the sufferers with bread at a reasonable price. The economic system, dominated as it is by white imperialism, functions with at least two predictable results. One is that the prices of everything the sufferers require for their existence will rise consistently - the other is that the number of black men without jobs in the country will, with equal consistency, continue to rise.

Over the past twenty years rents, transportation charges, fuel, food and clothing have risen to such a level relative to incomes that starvation is capturing an endlessly increasing number of sufferers every day. Even the so-called 'controlled' price of sufferer food has risen uncontrollably.

Eighteen months ago the regime started off a new spiral of price increases when they devalued the currency in imitation of imperialist Britain. Devaluation, despite appearances, was a calculated decision to protect imperialist interests, such as the big sugar companies. Since then price increases have been extraordinary, yet the official statistics claim that price increases have only been 3 per cent. But everybody knows that this is a lie. Even the exploiters do.

A little over a year ago when the Kingston and St. Andrew upper classes began to shout about the rising prices of luxury items, the regime embarked upon a cynical publicity stunt, sending Price Inspectors around to check prices at a few supermarkets in town. Even as it embarked on this stunt the regime knew that most sufferers come in

to contact with the supermarkets only as beggars. The luxury plazas, bloated full with food, clothing, jewelry and the other good things of life, are nothing more than constant reminders of black suffering in Jamaica. However times have changed. Consciousness by the black man of his suffering in Jamaica has grown. The upper classes are frightened at this new surge of cultural development. They no longer shout out at high prices. Instead they clamour for a state of Emergency to wage further war against the black sufferers.

Meanwhile over the years, on the little scrap of land where the peasant toils and scrapes for a living, none of these price increases have been passed on to him in the form of higher income from his produce or more land. Instead the cost of fertilizers, feedstuff and agricultural implements have risen. Foreign ownership of the land has increased. The new schemes for Port Royal, Negril, Kingston Waterfront Development areas and Ocho Rios herald a new round of dispossession. Added to this the 'white' retail and wholesale merchants have landed like leeches on the peasantry. They stand between the suffering peasant and the consumers in the towns.

All this the present regimes and the economic and social order they defend are incapable of attending to. Their response is the natural one. More and more allowances to foreign capitalists to exploit our land, our resources and our people. In the face of mounting unemployment and rising prices, they threaten the sufferers with more violence. How long can this plundering of black humanity endure? When will the high cost of living stop being the low price of a black man's life?

## SUMMARY OF THE BUDGET (All figures in £ millions)

| ITEM                                  | Recurrent Spending Budget |      | Capital Spending Budget |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------------|------|-------------------------|
|                                       | 1969                      | 1968 |                         |
| TOTAL £113 million                    | 79.4                      | 67.1 | 32.9                    |
| Public Debt Charges                   | 11.0                      | 8.4  | 0.4                     |
| Education                             | 11.1                      | 10.1 | 3.7                     |
| Police                                | 4.6                       | 3.8  | 0.1                     |
| Rural Land Development                | 1.6                       | 0.8  | 2.5                     |
| Agriculture & Fisheries               | 3.0                       | 3.1  | 2.2                     |
| Health                                | 8.3                       | 8.2  | 1.7                     |
| Local Government                      | 6.8                       | 7.3  | 3.8                     |
| Communications & Works                | 7.1                       | 7.0  | 5.8                     |
| Jamaica Defence Force                 | 2.1                       | 2.0  |                         |
| Trade & Industry                      | 0.8                       | 1.1  | 2.8                     |
| Labour & National Insurance           | 1.0                       | 0.9  |                         |
| Finance & Planning (ex. debt charges) | 8.1                       | 7.7  | 1.8                     |
| Home Affairs (ex. police)             | 0.8                       | 0.8  | 0.1                     |

## BLOW THE HORN TELL THE PEOPLE

(Letters must be signed. Names withheld on request. Ed.)

### BUFF BAY CITIZENS

The Citizens Association met on the 27/4/69 last Sunday at Buff Bay after three months of organizing. We elected President, Secretary and Treasurer. Brother H.J. Campbell founder of the Association took the Chair for the election of new officers. The first nominee for the position of President was Brother A. Young who was elected unopposed. Sister J. Gray was elected as Secretary unopposed and Brother A. Welsh selected Treasurer unopposed.

Brother A. Young in taking the Chair emphasized greatly on the needs of the citizens of Buff Bay he mentioned about the need for more sanitary conveniences in the town and he also spoke of the need of unemployment that is greatly among the people and of the youths who are left along, he also went further to say that the Association will at an early date write the head of Government and the M.P. for this constituency to help us in this situation especially the youths because there may come a time when these kids may be the greatest criminals and rebels of Buff Bay and other surroundings. Our enrolment stands at 185 including officers.

### ASHENHEIM

I notice that the president of the Jamaica Employers Federation has called for a declaration of a State of Emergency during which the present wave of crime should be dealt with. This is all very well and good but I cannot help but reflecting on the fact that a couple years ago when black men were shooting black men in Kingston and St. Andrew for political and other reasons no such call was made even though as I remember it the shootings were more frequent and serious than at the present time. Could it be that now that black underprivileged men are now directing some of their offensive against people in the Hermitage/Stony Hill areas for instance, certain voices are now calling for the strongest possible action when two years ago these same voices were still, because black men were shooting black men?

The president of the JEF is quaking with fear so much so that he has grown distracted. The approach to the problem of violence has got to

cut across all sectional interests and get at the real causes. A State of Emergency will only calm things for a while but after a while this monster will appear again with two heads where before it had one.

C. GEORGE DIXON  
KINGSTON 11

### BROTHER DENIS

The time has just come for me to send my sincere regret for our dear Brother Denis Sloly who passed away from the scene of this land. It is with great regret. I for one do not worship the dead. But when one has a loss like this one, one must say something. I did not know this Brother face to face, but by his work that he did for the poor, I am not speaking of his Law work, but a man for black power and a fighter for the poor and needy ones of his country. May the God and King declare his work and his soul Rest in Peace.

For when man on earth has done his work the angel in heaven can't do more. The Bible told I that.

HUBERT SAMUDA  
MORANT BAY

### INCENTIVE TO WORK

Instead of outright gambling in the form of the National Lottery, could not the Government have come up with a better solution to unemployment? One of the real reasons for unemployment is that sections of the country's labour force refuse to work for the benefits possible from our economic position. Another is that there aren't enough incentives for the working man to excel himself. Has Government or any other civil bodies ever given thought to the back-flow of wages as direct investment in a company? The result being that while earning his way, he is turning his earning into profitable business. This means that if a man is earning £10 per week, it could be stipulated that he must reinvest £1 per week in the company. At this rate, each year he would have invested £52 in the company which is then partly his. Then, a man will know that he is working, not just as a servant to a master, but as a man unto himself. The more he works, the more profit he will make on his weekly contribution to development.

B.G.W.

### CONTRIBUTION

I am a regular reader of your Abeng edition. I must thank you and your staff for the preparation of this new newspaper 'Abeng' which informs us the people of Jamaica with general information that the Daily Gleaner does not publish. I hereby enclose Five Shillings to help further preparations.

RAS BUCK  
MORANT BAY

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Hu Gentles  
James Carnegie

Sunday, May 4 - 10.30 am.

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U.W.I.

## JAMAICAN BATTLE LINE

Reports continue to reach the Abeng about the activities of white foreigners throughout the Jamaican countryside spying on black people, inciting and harassing them.

Santa Cruz in St. Elizabeth seems to be a particular target for these aliens.

This week Abeng publishes the names of some of the more prominent among the so-called peace-corps engaged in suspicious activity:

Kathy Snyder-white American about 27, teaches at Munro, part-time at St. Elizabeth Technical School.

Jack Beagley-white Canadian about 5'8", 27 years old. MacDowel- 22, English VSO; teaches Physics and Maths at St. Elizabeth Technical School.

Frank Golas-white American about 25, 5'7", fat face; Area Supervisor of Industrial Art Internees for Savlamar and Montego Bay.

Abeng warns these individuals to stop fooling around Jamaica's business and calls on Government to investigate all those aliens who are going around the country prying into our peoples' lives.

ABENG is asking all its thousands of readers throughout Jamaica to send us full and comprehensive reports the moment they detect any of these foreigners engaging in activity the least bit suspicious. This information is wanted immediately!

### BLOWING THE HORN TO CALL YOU

all Brothers and Sisters  
of the Soul World

"NITE OF NAKED SOUL"

Place: BOWENS PLACE (Guys Hill)

Date: 9th MAY, 1969

Time: 8:00 P.M. until anon

Admission: 3/-

Music by ASTOR'S SOUND

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